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Former Senior State Network Engineer Sentenced for Defrauding Intelenet Commission and Indiana University

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced today the sentencing of SHAWN D. SOLOMON, age 28, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced today by United States District Judge John Daniel Tinder to five months of imprisonment and five months of home confinement, following his guilty plea on September 29, 2005 to bank fraud and engaging in a prohibited financial transaction with criminally derived funds.

SOLOMON was formerly a Senior State Networks Engineer for the Indiana Higher Education Telecommunication System ("IHETS"). The charges arose from a joint investigation by the Indiana State Police, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SOLOMON committed bank fraud by devising a scheme to defraud the Intelenet Commission and Indiana University through sales of computer equipment at grossly inflated prices. SOLOMON also used \$15,135.77 of the bank fraud proceeds to pay down his mortgage.

Between April 18, 2002 and January 24, 2003, SOLOMON caused IHETS to direct the Intelenet Commission and Indiana University to purchase \$93,842 in computer equipment at grossly inflated prices from Heuring Consulting, while concealing that SOLOMON had an illegal conflict of interest in these transactions because he was receiving bribes from Heuring Consulting.

In addition, in February 2003, SOLOMON attempted to cause IHETS to direct the Intelenet Commission or Indiana University to purchase a further \$235,000 in computer equipment at grossly inflated prices from Heuring Consulting.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Steven D. DeBrota, who prosecuted the case for the government, SOLOMON was also ordered to serve three years of supervised release and pay restitution to the Intelenet Commission and Indiana University in the total amount of \$79,035.40. The amount of restitution was increased to account for the \$16,734 in audit costs that the Intelenet Commission and Indiana University incurred to determine the number of fraudulent transactions.

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